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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, Acting Deputy Attorney General and United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, announced today that a jury convicted Dwight Whorley, age 53, of Richmond, Virginia, of twenty counts of receiving obscene materials, twenty counts of receiving obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children, fourteen counts of receiving child pornography, and twenty counts of sending and receiving obscene E-mails describing the sexual abuse of children. Whorley will face a maximum sentence of 1160 years of imprisonment and a \$18,500,000 fine when he is sentenced by United States District Court Judge Henry E. Hudson on March 10, 2006.

Whorley used a public computer at a Virginia Employment Commission ("VEC") office in Richmond on March 30, 2004, to receive obscene Japanese anime cartoons that graphically depicted prepubescent female children being forced to engage in genital-genital and oral-genital intercourse with adult males. Whorley's conviction under Title 18, United State Code, Section 1466A, is the first under a new statute enacted in 2003 designed to increase protection against the sexual exploitation of minors. The statute criminalizes the production, distribution, receipt, or possession with intent to distribute obscene drawings, cartoons, sculptures, paintings, or any other obscene visual representation of the sexual abuse of children.

Whorley also used a VEC computer on March 11, 2004 and March 12, 2004, to receive digital photographs of actual children engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Between February 6, 2004 and April 2, 2004, he also sent and received twenty obscene E-mails graphically describing, among other things, parents sexually molesting their own children.

Because Whorley has a prior federal child pornography conviction, he faces a mandatory minimum term of fifteen years of imprisonment. Whorley's earlier child pornography conviction occurred on March 5, 1999, and he was sentenced to 46 months of incarceration, followed by three years of supervised probation. In January 2003, after Whorley had served his sentence, he was re-arrested for violating the conditions of his probation. Whorley subsequently pled guilty to violating the conditions of his release and was sentenced to an additional 12 months of incarceration to be followed by 12 months of supervision by the United States Probation Office. Whorley was released from incarceration again in January of 2004, but violated the conditions of his supervised probation and was re-arrested on April 5, 2004. The conduct that led to his arrest on April 5 was the basis for the present prosecution.

Mr. McNulty stated: "With this conviction, we have removed a dangerous repeat sex

offender from the community for a long time. This case also marks the first application of an important statute that enhances the ability of the United States to aggressively pursue those who contribute to the exploitation of children.”

Ms. Fisher stated: “The Department of Justice will continue to protect citizens from obscene pictures of child pornography by punishing those who violate our law and engage in these abhorrent offenses. Because of today’s conviction, a relentless trafficker of child pornography will again be removed from the streets.”

Also announcing the conviction is Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Division.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara E. Flannery and Damon A. King, a trial attorney with the Department of Justice’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. The case was investigated by a Special Agent of the FBI and James M. Fottrell of the Department of Justice’s High Technology Investigative Unit.